COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to bring Judges within the purview of the Prevention of Corruption Act

454. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court within the purview of Prevention of corruption Act by deleting Art. 217(b) of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b); No, Sir. The Government is of the view that in order to maintain the independence of judiciary, the existing provisions in the Constitution for the removal of a Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court are adequate.

Enactment of law making exercise of franchise compulsory

455. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to enact a law to make exercise of franchise compulsory on the part of registered voters in the elections to Parliament and State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Proposal to Formulate Policy to Expedite Litigations

456. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy with a view to expedite cases relating to land-disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) and (b) With a view to expediting the disposal of land disputes relating to land ceiling and such other revenue and land reforms matters, the Government of India, as a part of land reforms policy, has been from time to time advising at various for a e.g. Conferences of Revenue Ministers and Chief Ministers, to the State Governments to set up Land Tribunals under the provisions of Article 323-B of the Constitution or create Special Courts/Bench in High Court in consultation with the concerned High Court. Accordingly, the States of Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have enacted legislation for setting up Land Tribunals under Article 323-B of the Constitution.

(c) Question does not arise.

Judges in the Gujarat High Court employees

457. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Gujarat High Court at present;

(b) what is the number of judges in the High Court of Gujarat at present; and